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Secret Dealing Described by NSA Officers

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Officers of the National Student Association said yesterday that the Central Intelligence Agency recruited agents from the student organization's top echelons over a period of 14 years.

These officers, who declined to be quoted by name, also asserted that the CIA placed other student leaders from their group in posts with private foundations that serve as conduits for CIA-sponsored activities.

None of the NSA sources would divulge the names of the past presidents and other high-ranking officers of the organization who had joined the CIA's ranks after one or two years' service with NSA—the largest student group in the country.

"Every year," one NSA source said, "the CIA picked out a man or two that it could trust and told them about the undercover funding" of the student organization. Some of these young men would later join the CIA, often acting as liaison agents to the student group.

In some years, according to student officers, the CIA contribution to NSA has run close to \$400,000 annually — about half the student organization's budget in those years.

Few Knew of Role

The CIA's hand-picked student leaders, all in their early 20s at the time of their recruitment, were sworn to secrecy under the CIA's charter. Since the early 1950s, when the link with the CIA was formed, fewer than 100 student leaders knew of the intelligence agency's role in a group whose ranks run in the many thousands.

Yesterday, the NSA convened an emergency meeting of its ten-member National Supervisory Board in an effort to deal with the crisis. An NSA spokesman said the group would issue no further statements until its full governing body confers here today.



By Harry Naltchayan, Staff Photographer

W. EUGENE GROVES

... student association head tells of CIA link.

In the wake of the controversy, serious consideration was being given to folding the 20-year-old NSA and to restructuring the student group under a new name and a new charter.

Some NSA officials also favored speedily removing the group from its headquarters at 2115 S st. nw., which NSA uses under a 15-year rent-free agreement through funds ultimately provided by the CIA through Boston's Independence Foundation.

President Disappears

The scene at NSA's national headquarters yesterday was one of total dismay that verged on panic. W. Eugene Groves, 23, NSA's current president, read a statement several times for the television cameras and then disappeared.

"Where's Gene?" an attractive NSA staff member attired in a miniskirt inquired at one point. "He's probably throwing up in the men's room," a youth told her.

Robert Amory Jr., who was deputy director of the CIA at the height of the agency's relationship with the student organization, acknowledged in a telephone interview that "there was support to organizations like this. It would have been nonsense for there not to be. If we hadn't done this, we could have just been run over by the Russians" during the cold war years.

Amory said the CIA had given American students "the wherewithal" to attend international student conferences such as the Helsinki World Youth Festival in 1962 and the Vienna Youth Festival in 1959. The student organization was not officially represented at either meeting. Amory stressed that he was not among the officials primarily responsible for liaison with NSA.

Paul Potter, a vice president of NSA for national affairs in 1961, said in a telephone interview from Boston that NSA officers "collaborated more and more with the State Department and the CIA and became known as people who were willing to work in some sense as covers for CIA."

Potter, who is also a former president of the left-leaning Students for a Democratic Society, said NSA's international arm was a key front in student cold war politics.

He noted that the NSA became the principal force behind the continuing Coordinating Secretariat of the International Student Conference, headquartered in Leyden, the Netherlands. The Leyden group served as the Western counterpart to the Communist-dominated International Union of Students in Prague.

Edward Garvey, a former president of NSA, went to work for the Pentagon and then resigned to serve as the top officer of Leyden group, Potter said. Garvey, currently a student at the Wisconsin Law School, could not immediately be reached for comment.

It was reported that Garvey received a \$3000 scholarship from the Independence Foundation in 1962. Former NSA president Dennis Shaul and Robert Francis, a full-time employe, also received grants from the foundation, believed to be a front for the CIA. NSA's current leadership, while stressing that the ties with the CIA have been "terminated," acknowledged that the organization's immediate past president, Philip Sherburne, had procured their present headquarters and furniture in 1965 through the CIA.

"There are a lot of people who say let's haul the filing cabinets out on the street and get out of here," Robert Kunz, a student exchanges, said, "We still may."